

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicular headlamp for emitting light with a predetermined light distribution pattern, comprising:

a semiconductor light emitting element comprising a substantially linear light emitting area for generating said light therefrom; and

an optical device for forming at least a part of a cut line to determine a boundary between bright and dark with regard to said light distribution pattern by reflecting or deflecting said light generated by said semiconductor light emitting element and projecting a shape of said light emitting area.

2. A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of said semiconductor light emitting elements being arranged in a row in a direction corresponding to at least a part of said cut line,

wherein said optical device forms at least a part of said cut line by projecting said shape of said light emitting area with regard to each of said plurality of semiconductor light emitting elements towards positions arranged in a row over at least a part of said cut line.

3. A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said semiconductor light emitting element further comprises an active layer, and

said light emitting area has a groove for emitting said light from at least a part of an opening of said groove, said groove substantially linearly extending on a surface of said

semiconductor light emitting element, the depth of said groove reaching at least a part of said active layer.

4. A semiconductor light emitting element used for a vehicular headlamp for emitting light with a predetermined light distribution pattern, comprising:

an active layer, and

a light emitting area having a groove for emitting said light from at least a part of an opening of said groove, said groove extending on a surface of said semiconductor light emitting element in a direction corresponding to at least a part of a cut line to determine a boundary between bright and dark with regard to said light distribution pattern, the depth of said groove reaching at least a part of said active layer.